CLAIMS

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A method of scrambling a data stream, comprising:

encoding a plurality of video frames to generate a compressed bitstream;

generating a stream of transport packets to transport the compressed bitstream, wherein each transport packet has a fixed length and comprises (i) a header and (ii) a payload having data from the compressed bitstream;

selecting every *n*-th transport packet in said stream of transport packets for scrambling processing, where *n* is a positive integer; ~~and~~

in each selected transport packet, scrambling a first portion of the payload while leaving at least a second portion of the payload unscrambled to generate a corresponding scrambled transport packet; and

transmitting a stream of transport packets having the generated scrambled transport packets from a transmitter of a conditional access system.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, further comprising leaving at least some non-selected transport packets in said stream of transport packets unscrambled.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of selecting comprises selecting every transport packet in said stream of transport packets.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein *n* is an integer greater than one.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising scrambling the entire payload in at least some non-selected transport packets of said stream of transport packets.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein, in all selected packets, the first portion is at a fixed location within the transport packet.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the first portion includes a center point of the corresponding transport packet.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein, in at least two of the selected packets, the respective first portions have different locations within the respective payloads.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising changing locations of the first portions within payloads of the selected transport packets in coordination with a descrambler.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein, in at least two of the selected packets, the respective first portions have different lengths.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein, in at least some of the selected packets, the first portion is surrounded on both sides by the second portion.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of scrambling comprises inverting data within the first portion.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the compressed bitstream is an MPEG data stream.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the compressed bitstream includes an audio signal.

37. (Previously presented) Apparatus for scrambling a data stream, comprising:

means for encoding a plurality of video frames to generate a compressed bitstream;

means for generating a stream of transport packets to transport the compressed bitstream, wherein each transport packet has a fixed length and comprises (i) a header and (ii) a payload having data from the compressed bitstream;

means for selecting every *n*-th transport packet in said stream of transport packets for scrambling processing, where *n* is a positive integer; and

means for scrambling a first portion of the payload in each selected transport packet while leaving at least a second portion of the payload unscrambled.

38. (Currently amended) A descrambling method, comprising:

receiving, at a receiver of a conditional access system, a stream of transport packets that transports a compressed bitstream, wherein:

each transport packet has a fixed length and comprises (i) a header and (ii) a payload having data from the compressed bitstream; and

the compressed bitstream encodes a plurality of video frames;

selecting every *n*-th transport packet in said stream of transport packets for descrambling processing, where *n* is a positive integer;

in each selected transport packet, descrambling a first portion of the payload while not subjecting at least a second portion of the payload to descrambling; and

reconstructing the compressed bitstream using the descrambled first portions of the selected transport packets.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of selecting comprises selecting every transport packet in said stream of transport packets.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein *n* is an integer greater than one.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein, in all selected packets, the first portion is at a fixed location within the transport packet.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the first portion includes a center point of the corresponding transport packet.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein, in at least two of the selected packets, the respective first portions have different locations within the respective payloads.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein, in at least two of the selected packets, the respective first portions have different lengths.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein, in at least some of the selected packets, the first portion is surrounded on both sides by the second portion.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the step of descrambling comprises inverting data within the first portion.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the compressed bitstream is an MPEG data stream.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein the compressed bitstream includes an audio signal.

49. (Previously presented) A receiver, comprising:

means for receiving a stream of transport packets that transports a compressed bitstream, wherein:

each transport packet has a fixed length and comprises (i) a header and (ii) a payload having data from the compressed bitstream; and

the compressed bitstream encodes a plurality of video frames;

means for selecting every *n*-th transport packet in said stream of transport packets for descrambling processing, where *n* is a positive integer;

means for descrambling a first portion of the payload in each selected transport packet and not subjecting at least a second portion of the payload to descrambling; and

means for reconstructing the compressed bitstream using the descrambled first portions of the selected transport packets.